Ban on use of plastic blood bottles

3518. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that instead of using glass saline blood bottles many hospitals arc using plastic bottles which cannot withstand the heat required for sterilization of these bottles; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to ban the use of plastic bottles in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) All over the world plastic blood bags arc used in Boold Transfusion Services. These plastic bags are not heat sterilized but sterilized by irradiation. Use of glass saline blood bottles has been given up a long time ago.

IDA assistance for health system

3519. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance Government have reeeived from International Development Association towards health system;

(b) whether the funds are earmarked for specific health projects;

(c) if so, the details of such projects;

(d) whether the above/assistance is received as a term loan or grant; and

(e) the details of the terms of repayment if it is term loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)The World Bank has provided assistance for the ongoing projects as indicated at Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) The entire assistance is in the form of interest free credit received from IDA (World Bank). The credit shall be repaid to the World Bank within a period cf 35 years including a grace period of 10 years. A commitment fee of 0.5% is chargeable on undrawn balances and a service charge of 0.75% on the principal amount of credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.